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FOR INM AND EAP

E.O. 12356:
TAGS: SNAR, BM
SUBJECT: 1986 INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL
----- STRATEGY REPORT (INCSR) - BURMA PART I

REF STATE 317321

1. (U) AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 481 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT (AS REVISED BY PL 98-164, THE HAWKINS-GILMAN AMENDMENT OF 1983) THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS SUBMITTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE DEPARTMENT'S CONGRESSIONAL REPORT. SINCE BURMA MEETS THE CRITERIA AS A MAJOR PRODUCING COUNTRY WHICH IS RECEIVING U.S. ANTI-NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE, PARTS A THROUGH E ARE INCLUDED.
2. (C) PART A.

(A-I)) (U) THE PRIMARY CONCERN IN BURMA IS THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION OF OPIUM AND ITS DERIVATIVES. BURMA REMAINS THE LARGEST PRODUCER OF OPIUM IN THE WORLD. WHILE THE ABILITY TO MAKE ESTIMATES OF THE BURMESE OPIUM CROP HAS IMPROVED SOMEWHAT, THERE REMAIN SIGNIFICANT UNCERTAINTIES THAT MAKE ACCURATE ESTIMATES OF AREAS UNDER CULTIVATION AND YIELD FACTORS DIFFICULT. AMONG THE BASIC PROBLEMS IS THE ALMOST COMPLETE DEPENDENCE UPON AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY TO ARRIVE AT CROP ESTIMATES. A SECOND FACTOR IS THE INABILITY TO ENTER AREAS TO DETERMINE AVERAGE YIELD DATA SINCE THE SRUB DOES NOT CONTROL THE PRIMARY GROWING AREAS. HISTORICALLY, THESE FACTORS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO VERY HIGH ESTIMATES WHICH DID NOT EQUATE WITH THE AMOUNTS OF ILLICIT OPIUM ESTIMATED TO BE REACHING REFINERIES OR BEING CONSUMED LOCALLY. THIS YEAR, HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT GAIN IN RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM AND HAS DEVELOPED MUCH BETTER ESTIMATES OF THE PRODUCTION AND REFINING OCCURRING IN BURMA.

3. (U) FYI: THE GROWING SEASON IN BURMA SPANS PORTIONS OF TWO CALENDAR YEARS, SEPTEMBER TO MARCH. FOR STATISTICAL AND REPORTING PURPOSES, THE GROWING SEASON SEPTEMBER 1984 - MARCH 1985 WILL BE REPORTED AS THE 1985 CROP. END FYI.
4. (U) THE SRUB ESTIMATES THE 1985 CROP AT

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APPROXIMATELY 27,000 HECTARES WITH AN AVERAGE YIELD OF 9.68 KILOGRAMS PER HECTARE. THESE ESTIMATES ARE LIMITED TO PRODUCTION IN AREAS UNDER CONTROL OF THE SRUB AND AREAS WHERE THERE IS SOME INTELLIGENCE ACCESS. FOR THIS REASON, SRUB ESTIMATES ARE TRADITIONALLY MUCH LOWER THAN THOSE OF THE EMBASSY WHICH INCLUDE THE WHOLE COUNTRY INCLUDING AREAS NOT UNDER SRUB CONTROL.

5. (U) BASED UPON BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE, THE EMBASSY ESTIMATES THE 1985 CULTIVATION TO HAVE BEEN APPROXIMATELY 71,000 HECTARES WITH AN AVERAGE YIELD OF 6.9 KILOGRAMS PER HECTARE. TOTAL PRODUCTION FOR 1985 IS ESTIMATED AT 490 METRIC TONS OF OPIUM.

6. (U) THE CULTIVATION AND REFINING OF OPIUM INTO ITS DERIVATIVES OCCURS PRIMARILY IN AREAS NOT UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SRUB. MAJOR GROWING AREAS ARE LOCATED IN THE SHAN STATE AND THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE OF REFINERIES ARE LOCATED CLOSE TO THE THAI/BURMA BORDER IN THAT STATE. THERE ARE REPORTS, HOWEVER, OF INCREASING REFINERY LOCATIONS NORTH OF THE TRADITIONAL BORDER AREA IN BURMA COMMUNIST PARTY (BCP) CONTROLLED TERRITORY. REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED OF AS MANY AS 13,000 HECTARES OF POPPY CULTIVATION IN THE KACHIN STATE NORTHWEST OF MYITKYINA, WITH SMALLER PLANTINGS IN THE CHIN AND KAYAH STATES. THESE AREAS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE A POOR YIELD AND ALMOST THE TOTAL PRODUCTION IS CONSUMED LOCALLY. MOST OF THE GROWING AREAS ARE CONTROLLED BY VARIOUS INSURGENT/TRAFFICKING GROUPS WITH THE BCP CONTROLLING THE LARGEST GROWING AREA IN THE SHAN STATE.

7. (U) THE THAI/BURMA BORDER CONTINUES TO BE THE MAJOR OUTLET FOR THE ILLICIT NARCOTICS DRUG WITH AN ESTIMATED 80 TO 85 PERCENT OF ALL OPIATES PASSING THROUGH THAT AREA INTO THE THAI AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS. ACTIVITIES IN 1985 HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE GROWING IMPORTANCE, HOWEVER, OF THE SUBSIDIARY CROSS COUNTRY ROUTES INTO INDIA. INCREASED SEIZURES OF BOTH NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PRECURSOR CHEMICALS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE INCREASED USE OF THESE ROUTES. THERE ARE ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIARY ROUTES INTO THE TENNASSERIM, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE EVIDENCE THAT THESE ROUTES ARE MOVING SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF ILLICIT

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DRUGS. CONTINUED PRESSURE ON THE TRADITIONAL THAI/BURMA BORDER AREAS BY THE THAI AND BURMA ARMY COULD INTENSIFY THE TREND TOWARD THESE ALTERNATE ROUTES. SEIZURES MADE DURING 1985 HAVE SHOWN THAT THE CROSS COUNTRY INDIAN ROUTE IS SUPPLYING LARGE QUANTITIES OF THE CHEMICALS BEING UTILIZED IN THE REFINERIES.

8. (U) ILLICIT NARCOTICS LEAVE BURMA IN VARIOUS FORMS WHICH INCLUDE RAW OPIUM, PITU (IMPURE MORPHINE BASE), MORPHINE BASE, IMPURE HEROIN BASE, AND HEROIN NO. 4. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT APPROXIMATELY 220 METRIC TONS OF THE ESTIMATED 490 METRIC TONS PRODUCED IN 1985 WERE PROCESSED INTO EITHER MORPHINE BASE OR HEROIN. OF THIS AMOUNT, THE EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT 3 TO 4 METRIC TONS OF REFINED NARCOTICS WERE PRODUCED IN UP-COUNTRY REFINERIES AND THAT APPROXIMATELY 18 METRIC TONS OF REFINED NARCOTICS

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WERE PRODUCED IN THE THAI/BURMA BORDER AREA. OF THE REMAINING 270 TONS, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT APPROXIMATELY 20 METRIC TONS MOVED OUT OF THE COUNTRY THROUGH SOUTHERN THAILAND IN THE FORM OF RAW OPIUM WHILE 40 TO 45 METRIC TONS OF OPIUM MOVED INTO CHINA, INDIA, BANGLADESH, AND INTERNATIONAL SEA SHIPMENTS.

9. (U) THE REFINED PRODUCTS MOVING ACROSS THE THAI/BURMA BORDER ARE PURCHASED BY SINO/THAI TRAFFICKERS WHO HAVE LONG BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE BORDER AREA AND HAVE THEIR NETWORKS FOR MOVING THE REFINED DRUGS THROUGH THAILAND FOR THAI CONSUMPTION AND TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETS. INDIAN TRAFFICKERS ARE THE PURCHASERS ON THE BURMA/INDIA BORDER ALTHOUGH NOT NEARLY SO WELL ESTABLISHED AS THE SEASONED DEALERS IN THAILAND.

10. (U) BECAUSE OF THE POOR CROP YEAR AND THE SERIOUS DISRUPTION OF DRUG AND CHEMICAL MOVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR, THE PRICE FOR REFINED NARCOTICS HAS RISEN SHARPLY AT THE THAI/BURMA BORDER. HEROIN NO. 4 HAS RISEN FROM DOLS. 1,300 TO DOLS. 1,500 PER UNIT (700 GRAMS) IN JANUARY, 1985 TO DOLS. 2,900 TO DOLS. 3,333 PER UNIT (700 GRAMS) IN NOVEMBER. MORPHINE BASE WAS PRICED AT DOLS. 500 PER KILOGRAM IN JANUARY AND ROSE TO DOLS. 900 - 925 PER KILOGRAM BY NOVEMBER. OPIUM WAS PRICED AT DOLS. 55 TO 60 PER KILOGRAM IN JANUARY AND ROSE TO DOLS. 95 TO 10. 100 PER KILOGRAM BY NOVEMBER. CONTINUING FIGHTING BETWEEN INSURGENT GROUPS, INTENSIFIED PRESSURE BY THE BURMA ARMY AND THAI FORCES, COUPLED WITH IMPROVED ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF THE PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE HAVE ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE DISRUPTION AND RESULTANT PRICE INCREASES.

11. (U) THE INSURGENT GROUPS HAVE DIFFERENT ORIGINS. THE BCP STARTED AS IDEOLOGICAL REVOLUTIONARIES, SOME ARE ETHNIC SEPARATISTS LIKE THE KACHIN, LAHU AND OTHER GROUPS; OTHERS ARE PROFIT ORIENTED WAR-LORD SMUGGLERS LIKE CHANG CHI-FU (AKA KHUN SA) OF THE SHAN UNITED ARMY (SUA) AND MO HEIN OF THE TAI REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (TRA) WHICH IS A CONSOLIDATION OF THE FORMER SHAN UNITED REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (SURA) AND THE SHAN STATE ARMY SOUTH ARMY SOUTH (SSA). THE BORDER AREA ALIGNMENT OF THE VARIOUS GROUPS CONTINUES TO BE EXTREMELY FLUID. WHATEVER THE PROFESSED MOTIVES OF THE INSURGENT GROUPS, ALMOST ALL ARE INVOLVED IN THE GROWING, REFINING, OR TRAFFICKING OF OPIUM TO FINANCE THEIR MOVEMENTS. DURING 1985, CONTINUED EXPANSION OF THE BCP INTO REFINING AND DIRECT SALES OF HEROIN WAS OBSERVED.

12. (U) THE DOMINANT TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION ALONG THE BURMA/THAI BORDER - THE -- SUA -- CONSOLIDATED ITS HOLD ON THE AREA FROM THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THAILAND'S MAE HONG SON PROVINCE IN THE WEST TO MONG KAN IN THE EAST, ROUGHLY 16 MILES FROM TACHILEK, BURMA. ALTHOUGH THE SUA REMAINS UNDER CONSIDERABLE MILITARY PRESSURE FROM ITS TRAFFICKING RIVALS, AS WELL AS FROM BOTH THE BURMA ARMY AND THE ROYAL THAI ARMY, IT REMAINS A WELL-ARMED AND WELL-SITUATED ORGANIZATION WHICH IS DOMINANT IN THE BURMA/THAI BORDER NARCOTICS MILIEU.

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13. (U) WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BCP, THE INSURGENT/TRAFFICKING GROUPS IN BURMA HAVE NO

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INSTITUTIONAL TIES OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH THE BCP CLAIMS AN IDEOLOGICAL ALIGNMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT, RECENT YEARS HAVE SEEN THE ORGANIZATION SHIFT TO A MORE CONCENTRATED INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG TRAFFICKING. NONE OF THE EXISTING INSURGENT GROUPS ARE VIEWED AS POTENTIAL THREATS TO THE STABILITY OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. THEY DO CONTINUE TO BE A CONSTANT DRAIN OF MATERIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES WHICH HAS A GREAT IMPACT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO DEAL WITH OTHER NATIONAL PROBLEMS. FURTHER THEY DOMINATE MOST OF THE BORDER AREAS.

14. (C) THE BCP STILL MAINTAINS AN OFFICE IN BEIJING AND HAS TIES TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ALTHOUGH CHINESE AID HAS GREATLY DIMINISHED.

15. (A2) (U) THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO ELIMINATING ILLICIT NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND DESTROYING THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT GROW AND TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS. THE SRUB IS CONVINCED THAT THE NARCOTICS TRADE FEEDS THE INSURGENCY AND MUST BE DESTROYED. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SRUB PLAN INCLUDE THE ANNUAL "HELLFLOWER" CAMPAIGNS IN WHICH POLICE, ARMY, AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL MOVE INTO THE POPPY GROWING AREAS TO DESTROY THE CROPS PHYSICALLY, AND "MOHEIN" MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST HEROIN REFINERIES. MANY LIVES ARE BEING LOST EACH YEAR IN THIS EFFORT. DURING 1985, THE SRUB REPORTED OVER 100 KILLED IN ACTION IN NARCOTICS RELATED ACTIONS. IN 1984, THE SRUB AGAIN CONDUCTED ITS ANNUAL "HELLFLOWER" OPERATIONS IN WHICH POLICE, BURMA ARMY AND CIVILIANS MANUALLY ERADICATED OPIUM POPPY CROPS. THE REPORTED DESTRUCTION OF 9,551 HECTARES IS THE HIGHEST ANNUAL DESTRUCTION REPORTED SINCE THE USG/SRUB PROTOCOL OF 1974. USING THE SRUB ESTIMATE OF 9.68 KILOGRAMS YIELD PER HECTARE, THIS AMOUNTED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY 92.5 METRIC TONS OF OPIUM. THE CAMPAIGN WAS CONCENTRATED IN THE SHAN STATE WITH MINIMAL DESTRUCTION OCCURING IN THE CHIN AND KACHIN STATES.

16. (C) COMMENT: WHILE THIS ERADICATION FIGURE IS UNDOUBTEDLY INFLATED BY EXCESSIVE CLAIMS BY ERADICATION TEAMS, THE SRUB EFFORT DURING THE 1984/85 CAMPAIGN WAS MUCH GREATER THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS. END COMMENT.

17. (U) ON FEBRUARY 24, 1985, THE BURMA ARMY LAUNCHED THE MOHEIN IX OPERATION AGAINST HEROIN REFINERIES IN THE BORDER AREAS. THE CAMPAIGN LASTED UNTIL MARCH 15 WITH 20 INSURGENTS REPORTED KILLED, MANY WOUNDED, AND SOME ARMS, SUPPLIES, CHEMICALS, AND NUMEROUS OPIUM REFINING PARAPHERNALIA SEIZED. DUE TO THE DIFFICULTY OF THE TERRAIN AND THE LACK OF MOBILITY AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT WHICH CONTINUES TO PLAGUE THE BA, THE DRUGS HAD BEEN SAFELY REMOVED FROM THE REFINERY SITES PRIOR TO THE ATTACKS. FOUR REFINERIES WERE REPORTED CAPTURED AND DESTROYED, BUT NO DRUGS WERE SEIZED IN THE OPERATION.

18. (U) SUSTAINED ACTIONS BY BA THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND INCREASED ACTIVITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE (PPF) HAVE RESULTED IN A STEADY INCREASE IN LARGE SEIZURES OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND REFINING CHEMICALS IN 1985. WHILE REPORTING FOR 1985 IS SPOTTY AND INCOMPLETE, CURRENT FIGURES AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY SHOW THAT 2015 KILOGRAMS OF OPIUM, 60.5 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN, 837 KILOGRAMS OF MORPHINE BASE, AND 708 GALLONS OF ACETIC ANHYDRIDE (AA) WERE SEIZED DURING THE FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF 1985.

19. (C) THE MOST RECENT AND STILL ON-GOING ACTION OF THE BA WAS LAUNCHED AGAINST A SUA MORPHINE BASE

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REFINERY NEAR LOI MAW IN THE NORTHEASTERN SHAN STATE ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1985. PRIOR TO BA ARRIVAL, THE SUA HAD MOVED AN ESTIMATED 2000 KILOGRAMS OF MORPHINE BASE FROM THE SITE. BA ELEMENTS DESTROYED THE REFINING COMPLEX. SUBSEQUENTLY, INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED THAT THE SHAN STATE/NORTH (SSA/N) ORGANIZATION WAS MOVING MORPHINE BASE TO THE THAI/BURMA BORDER.

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BA UNITS INTERCEPTED THE CARAVAN AND HAVE HAD NUMEROUS CLASHES WITH SSA/N PERSONNEL. THE CARAVAN WAS TRAPPED IN THE JUNGLE AREA NEAR MONG AWT IN THE CENTRAL SHAN STATE. A SECOND CARAVAN (SUA) WAS INTERCEPTED ON OCTOBER 16, 1985, BY BA UNITS IN THE KE HSI MANSAM AREA AND NUMEROUS SKIRMISHES RESULTED. TO DATE 122 KILOGRAMS OF MORPHINE BASE HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN SEIZED AND NUMEROUS INSURGENTS BEEN KILLED. BA UNITS THEN MOVED INTO BLOCKING POSITIONS AND ACTIONS AGAINST THE CARAVAN ARE STILL ON-GOING IN LATE NOVEMBER.

20. (A3) (U) TO ACCOMPLISH ITS NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION PROGRAM, THE SRUB EMPHASIZED ACTION IN FIVE AREAS: LIMITING AND REDUCING OPIUM PRODUCTION; PREVENTING THE MOVEMENT OF NARCOTICS FROM PRODUCING AREAS TO PROCESSING CENTERS AND FOREIGN MARKETS; STRIKING AT PROCESSING CENTERS AND TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS; SUBSTITUTING OTHER FORMS OF INCOME FOR THE RAISING OF POPPIES; AND REDUCING BURMA'S DOMESTIC DEMAND FOR NARCOTICS. SINCE THE SRUB DOES NOT CONTROL MOST OF THE GROWING, TRAFFICKING, AND REFINING AREAS, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH AN EXACT TIMETABLE FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. THE PRIMARY FOCUS IS A CONTINUOUS ONE TO LIMIT THE PRODUCTION IN THOSE AREAS UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND TO CONDUCT MAJOR MILITARY OPERATIONS INTO INSURGENT AREAS TO DISRUPT THE PROCESS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. VERY SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE SRUB DURING 1985 WHICH CAN SERVE TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE TOWARD THE STATED GOALS. THE FOLLOWING ARE SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS.

- THE SRUB DECISION TAKEN IN MARCH 1985 TO ENTER INTO AN AERIAL ERADICATION PROGRAM WITH USG ASSISTANCE.

- THE TRAINING OF NINE BURMESE PILOTS IN AGRICULTURE SPRAYING TECHNIQUES TO SUPPORT THE AERIAL ERADICATION PROJECT

- CONTINUED UTILIZATION OF MAINTENANCE TRAINING COURSES CONDUCTED IN THE U.S. BY BURMA AIR FORCE PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTENANCE OF INC SUPPLIED AIRCRAFT.

- A SUCCESSFUL EXECUTIVE OBSERVATION PROGRAM FOR SRUB SENIOR OFFICIALS WHO WILL HAVE KEY ROLES IN THE AERIAL ERADICATION PROJECT.

- THE TRAINING OF 12 BURMESE IN A SPECIAL COURSE DESIGNED FOR THE PPF FORCE MANAGERS AT THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER IN GLYNCO, GEORGIA, AND THE SUBSEQUENT DEPLOYMENT OF THE TASK FORCES IN NOVEMBER, 1985

21. (C) A MARKED IMPROVEMENT HAS BEEN NOTED IN COORDINATION AND TIMELY REACTION TO NARCOTICS

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INTELLIGENCE SUPPLIED TO THE SRUB BY THE EMBASSY.
THE INCREASED DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF THE DIRECTORATE
OF DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE (DDSI) THROUGH AN
ASSIGNED NARCOTICS LIAISON OFFICER HAS HAD A VERY
POSITIVE EFFECT.

22. (U) DESPITE OUR INABILITY TO PROVIDE ACCURATE
TIMETABLES FOR PROJECTED, PROGRESSIVE ELIMINATION OF
THE OPIUM CROP, WE BELIEVE THAT THE DECISION TO BEGIN
A FULL-SCALE AERIAL ERADICATION PROGRAM AND THE
INITIATION OF THE POLICE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM WILL
SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT DRUG PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING.
(A-4)

LEGAL ASPECTS:

23. (U) THE NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF
1974 PROVIDES STIFF PENALTIES AND LEGAL SANCTIONS
AGAINST EVERY ASPECT OF NARCOTICS PRODUCTION,
PROCESSING AND CULTIVATION, INCLUDING:

-- (1) CULTIVATION: 5-10 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT, KYAT
10,000 FINE (ABOUT DOLS. 1,333 AT THE OFFICIAL
EXCHANGE RATE), PLUS DESTRUCTION OF CROPS AND
SEIZURES OF FARM IMPLEMENTS AND DRAFT ANIMALS;

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-- (2) MANUFACTURE: 5-10 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT, KYAT
10,000 FINE, PLUS SEIZURE OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND
EQUIPMENT.

-- (3) PROCESSING; 10 YEARS TO LIFE, IMPRISONMENT,
KYAT 50,000 FINE (ABOUT DOLS. 6,667 AT THE OFFICIAL
EXCHANGE RATE), PLUS SEIZURE OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND
EQUIPMENT;

-- (4) POSSESSION (OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND IMPLEMENTS
RELATED TO STORAGE, MANUFACTURE, OR USE): 5-10 YEARS'
IMPRISONMENT, KYAT 10,000 FINE, PLUS SEIZURE OF
NARCOTIC DRUGS AND EQUIPMENT.

-- (5) TRANSPORTATION: 5-10 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT,
KYAT 10,000 FINE, PLUS SEIZURE OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND
CONVEYANCE.

-- (6) IMPORT OR EXPORT (NARCOTIC DRUGS OR
MATERIALS RELATING TO NARCOTIC DRUGS): 10 YEARS' TO
LIFE IMPRISONMENT OR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, KYAT 50,000
FINE, PLUS SEIZURE OF NARCOTIC DRUGS OR CONTRABAND.

-- (7) UNAUTHORIZED TRANSFER OF PRESCRIBED DRUGS:
5-10 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT, KYAT 10,000 FINE, PLUS
SEIZURE OF PROPERTY OR EQUIPMENT INVOLVED.

-- (8) SALE: 10 YEARS TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT OR
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, KYAT 50,000 FINE, PLUS SEIZURE OF
NARCOTIC DRUGS, IMPLEMENTS, PROPERTY ETC;

-- (9) ABETTING (IN ANY OF THE ABOVE): SAME AS FOR
COMMISSION OF THE CRIME.

-- (10) BRIBE-TAKING: 5-10 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

-- (11) USE OR ABUSE: 3 YEARS' TO 5 YEARS'
IMPRISONMENT.

-- (12) FAILURE TO REGISTER; 3 YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT.

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THE PENALTIES FOR USE AND FAILURE TO REGISTER WERE INCREASED FROM 6 MONTHS - 3 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT TO 3-5 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT IN 1983.

24. (U) SINCE MUCH OF THE NARCOTICS PRODUCING AREA IS OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT CONTROL, AND BECAUSE OF THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM, BURMESE ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES HAVE HAD LIMITED SUCCESS IN ENFORCING THE VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE NARCOTICS LAW. WHEN OFFENDERS ARE APPREHENDED AND CONVICTED, HOWEVER, BURMESE COURTS OFTEN IMPOSE SEVERE SENTENCES. IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, 1985, BURMESE COURTS HANDED DOWN EIGHT DEATH SENTENCES FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING.

25. (U) IN ADDITION, THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED A SYSTEM OF REWARDS FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF NARCOTICS USERS AND TRAFFICKERS AND SEIZURES OF NARCOTICS DRUGS. THERE IS NO LEGAL USE OF HEROIN IN MEDICAL TREATMENT OR SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTATION IN BURMA.

26. (U) BURMESE ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS ARE COORDINATED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL (CCDAC). THE CCDAC IS CHAIRED BY THE MINISTER OF HOME AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, U MIN GAUNG, WITH DEPUTY MINISTER COLONEL KHIN MAUNG WIN SERVING AS SECRETARY. DEPUTY MINISTERS FROM SIX OTHER MINISTRIES ARE REPRESENTED AND THE HEADS OF VARIOUS SUB-COMMITTEES. THE CCDAC ESTABLISHES POLICY AND COORDINATES ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

27. (U) THE PRINCIPAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT ARE THE PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE (PPF), THE BURMA ARMY AND AIR FORCE. SUBSIDIARY AGENCIES INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS CONTROL ARE THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU (NIB), THE DIRECTORATE OF DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE (DDSI), THE BUREAU OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS, THE CUSTOMS SERVICE (BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL), AND THE SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIVE ARMS OF THE BURMA SOCIALIST PROGRAM PARTY AND LOCAL PEOPLE'S COUNCILS.

28. (U) NARCOTICS RELATED CORRUPTION IS A PROBLEM IN BURMA. THE EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED INFORMATION TO THE SRUB TO ASSIST IT IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM.

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OUR EXPERIENCE IS THAT THE SRUB ACTS ON INFORMATION WE PROVIDE.

29. (U) THERE ARE NO THIRD COUNTRY NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICIALS STATIONED IN BURMA. THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL (UNFDAC) HAS A REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNED TO MANAGE UNFDAC PROGRAMS.

30 (U) ANTI-NARCOTICS TRAINING IS INCLUDED IN THE BASIC TRAINING GIVEN BY THE PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE. INFORMATION AVAILABLE IS THAT THE INSTRUCTION IS INADEQUATE AND THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR UPDATED TRAINING MATERIALS. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS NEED, A TRAINING EVALUATION TEAM VISITED RANGOON IN EARLY DECEMBER, 1984, TO DEVELOP A SYLLABUS TO SUPPORT THE PPF ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM. THIS TRAINING WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONDUCTED FOR 12 BURMESE PARTICIPANTS IN THE U.S. IN ADDITION TO THE SPECIAL COURSE FOR THE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, DURING 1985, U.S. PROVIDED TRAINING INCLUDED SENDING 4 PPF OFFICERS TO THE DEA ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL OFFICER'S ACADEMY

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AT GLYNCO, GEORGIA, AND THE AFORE MENTIONED EXECUTIVE OBSERVATION PROGRAM FOR THE SENIOR SRUB PLANNERS.

31. (U) BOTH THE SRUB AND USG RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS AN URGENT AND CONTINUING NEED FOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT TRAINING TO ENHANCE THE CAPABILITIES OF THE PPF TO PERFORM THEIR BASIC TASKS. TOWARD THIS GOAL, ADDITIONAL U.S. TRAINING IS PROJECTED IN THE COMING YEAR AND WE WOULD EXPECT TO SEE SOME IMPROVEMENT OF SRUB CONDUCTED TRAINING THROUGH THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT OF PREVIOUS U.S. TRAINING.

32. (A5) (U) ANTI-NARCOTICS PREVENTIVE EDUCATION IS CARRIED OUT BY BOTH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SCHOOL LECTURES, EXHIBITIONS, AND COMPETITIONS) AND THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION (NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS, RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS). THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DRUG TREATMENT AND DETOXIFICATION. THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE IS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DRUG REHABILITATION PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF OTHER MINISTRIES HAVE CONTRIBUTED RESOURCES TO REHABILITATION CENTERS.

33. (U) THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH SUPERVISES 26 TREATMENT AND DETOXIFICATION CENTERS WITH A COMBINED CAPACITY OF 730 BEDS: 100 BEDS AT THE RANGOON PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, 25 BEDS AT THE TAUNGGYI SAO SAM HTUN HOSPITAL, 50 BEDS AT THE MYITKYINA STATE HOSPITAL, 30 BEDS AT THE PEKON TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTER, 300 BEDS AT THE THAYET HOSPITAL, AND 10 BEDS EACH AT 20 OTHER TOWNSHIP HOSPITALS. THE THAYET HOSPITAL WAS OPENED ON AUGUST 2, 1982 AND THE PEKHON CENTER WAS OPENED ON AUGUST 2, 1983. HEROIN ADDICTS ARE PROVIDED WITH 10 WEEKS OF DETOXIFICATION TREATMENT AND ESTIMATED ANNUAL CAPACITY IS 3,500 - 4,000 ADDICTS.

34. (U) UNDER THE "COUNTRY HELP PROGRAM", OPIUM ADDICTS ARE TREATED AS OUTPATIENTS WITHIN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES. THERE ARE SMALL VOLUNTARY REHABILITATION CENTERS THAT PROVIDE VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO OPIUM ADDICTS AT KENGTUNG, NAMLAT, RANGOON, SAKANTHA, MANDALAY, AND MYITKYINA.

35. (U) THE SRUB USED METHADONE IN TREATMENT OF HEROIN ADDICTS UNTIL 1979, BUT IT WAS JUDGED TO BE INEFFECTIVE AS THE RECIDIVISM RATE WAS ALMOST 100 PERCENT. DETOXIFICATION BY THE "COLD TURKEY" METHOD HAS ALSO BEEN TRIED, BUT IT WAS ALSO JUDGED TO BE INEFFECTIVE AND HAD THE ADDITIONAL DISADVANTAGE OF DETERRING RELAPSED ADDICTS FROM RETURNING FOR TREATMENT. ACUPUNCTURE HAS BEEN USED AS AN EXPERIMENTAL FORM OF TREATMENT. IT WAS FOUND TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE FOR CHINESE ADDICTS THAN OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS, BUT IT WAS ALSO DEEMED TO BE GENERALLY INEFFECTIVE. SINCE 1979, BURMESE HEALTH AUTHORITIES HAVE RELIED PRIMARILY ON DOMESTICALLY MANUFACTURED DRUGS FOR DETOXIFICATION TREATMENT. THERE IS GREAT INTEREST AMONG HEALTH AUTHORITIES HERE IN THE POSSIBILITY OF TREATING ADDICTS WITH NALTREXONE, BUT THUS FAR IT HAS NOT BEEN AVAILABLE.

36. (U) THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT CONDUCTS A CONTINUOUS AND INTENSIVE PROGRAM OF NARCOTICS INFORMATION IN SCHOOLS AND THROUGH NEWS MEDIA AND POSTERS. ANTI-NARCOTIC MASS RALLIES ARE REGULARLY HELD AND PUBLIC AND PARTY INDOCTRINATION SESSIONS STRESS THE DANGERS AND EVIL OF NARCOTICS. IDENTIAL

37. (U) WHILE A GROWING DOMESTIC ADDICITON PROBLEM FOR INM AND EAP

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TAGS: SNAR, BM
SUBJECT: 1986 INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL

WAS A MAJOR CATALYST IN THE 1974 BURMESE DECISION TO ESTABLISH AN ACTIVE NARCOTICS CONTROL POLICY, THE SRUB NOW BELIEVES THAT THE ADDICTION RATE HAS STABILIZED AND THAT HEROIN ADDICTION HAS BEEN REDUCED. ADDICTS IN BURMA ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REGISTER, AND, AFTER REGISTRATION, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION ARE COMPULSORY. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, 44,557 DRUG ADDICTS WERE REGISTERED FROM 1974 TO 1984. OUT OF THIS TOTAL THERE WERE ABOUT 8,000 HEROIN ADDICTS, 31,500 OPIUM ADDICTS AND 5,000 OTHERS, PRIMARILY POLYDRUG ABUSERS.

38. (U) A LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS ADDICTED TO OPIATES ARE NOT REGISTERED. SOME OBSERVERS ESTIMATE THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ADDICTS MAY BE THREE TIMES HIGHER THAN THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED ADDICTS.

39. (U) INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR THE NUMBER OF OVERDOSE DEATHS PUT THE 1985 TOTAL AT 5. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE A REALISTIC ESTIMATE OF THE AMOUNT OF ILLICIT DRUGS CONSUMED, BUT COMMONLY ACCEPTED ESTIMATES PUTS THE FIGURE AT ONE KILOGRAM OF OPIUM OR EQUIVALENT PER ADDICT PER YEAR. ASSUMING 120,000 NARCOTIC ADDICTS IN BURMA, THE REQUIRED INTERNAL CONSUMPTION WOULD TOTAL 120,000 KILOGRAMS OF OPIUM PER YEAR. O'DONOHUE
END OF MESSAGE

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